By
**MIKE W. BARR**
**MARY MITCHELL**
**DON MARTINEC**
**RUSS HEATH**

*Full-Color Series*

$2.50 U.S./$3.10 Can.

Innovation welcomes legendary illustrator **Russ Heath** to the cover artwork for this startling issue of *THE MAZE AGENCY*, which follows series continuity immediately after last month's *MAZE AGENCY ANNUAL #1*.

Join New York's prettiest detective, Jennifer Mays, and true crime writer Gabriel Webb, in another fair-play whodunit that challenges you to solve the mystery as it unfolds!

THIS ISSUE: In "If Books Could Kill," the clients of literary agent Jesse Baker are being murdered one by one! How does this involve reclusive writer Desiree Brandywine? And will private detective Jennifer Mays be the next victim? Jen has just sold a book to Jesse Baker, too!

***Murder, Mystery, And Mayhem -- By The Book!***

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# INNOVATION™

## Convention Season. Albatross Season. Elmer Season?

Convention season. I hate it. I love it.

Y'see, Innovation is pretty big on the Convention circuit this summer. Bay area fans of ***THE MAZE AGENCY*** were happy to see that we had its creator/writer Mike W. Barr, and its editor (yours truly), both at WonderCon in May, answering questions and dropping tantalizing tidbits about upcoming mysteries and "relationship" details about Jen and Gabe.

We also hired a ***MAZE*** artist -- Darick Robertson! Darick's first Innovation art assignment was the enviable task of illustrating the Will Eisner tribute that appeared last month in ***THE MAZE AGENCY ANNUAL #1***. It doesn't look like Darick's normal work...but it won't be the only Innovation art job you'll see from him. We're a little bit high on this guy!

Welcome to the fold, Darick! You're one of several artists we've given work to, out of that hotbed area of talent!

Innovation has also attended BamaCon, ColumbusCon, MarCon (an SF convention), and we have the biggest of the summertime conventions on our schedule, as well. We plan to be out en masse to San Diego Con and the trade show that starts it all off, and through all that time we'll be reviewing artist portfolios to offer work to the best people out there.

We keep on expanding our plans, both with ***THE MAZE AGENCY*** and ***HERO ALLIANCE***-related titles, and the licensed best-sellers we have in the works will need some high-quality artists and painters.

It's one good way to get work from us -- so be sure to hit the Convention trail. And remember: If you're wanting to try out for one of our titles, then show us something from that title! It saves a separate step of our having you try book-specific samples, anyway.

Hmm. Looks like I'll have to go over our upcoming Con schedule with our operations manager, Diana Light -- she's the person Convention organizers speak with to get us there, and she knows where we're supposed to be going.

Me? They just let me know a day or two ahead of time, stuff me into a car or onto a plane, and send me to the Cons we're scheduled for. Respect for the boss--? Ha! Don't be silly. They know that I hate the travel, hate some of the repetitiveness, but love meeting people and love talking about this strange business of comics.

And I dearly love discovering and hiring artists and painters who are so good I can't turn them down!

Yeah...Convention season. Duck season. Wabbit season!

*-- David Campiti*
*June 1990*

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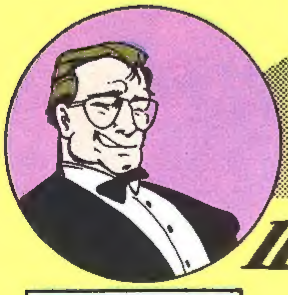
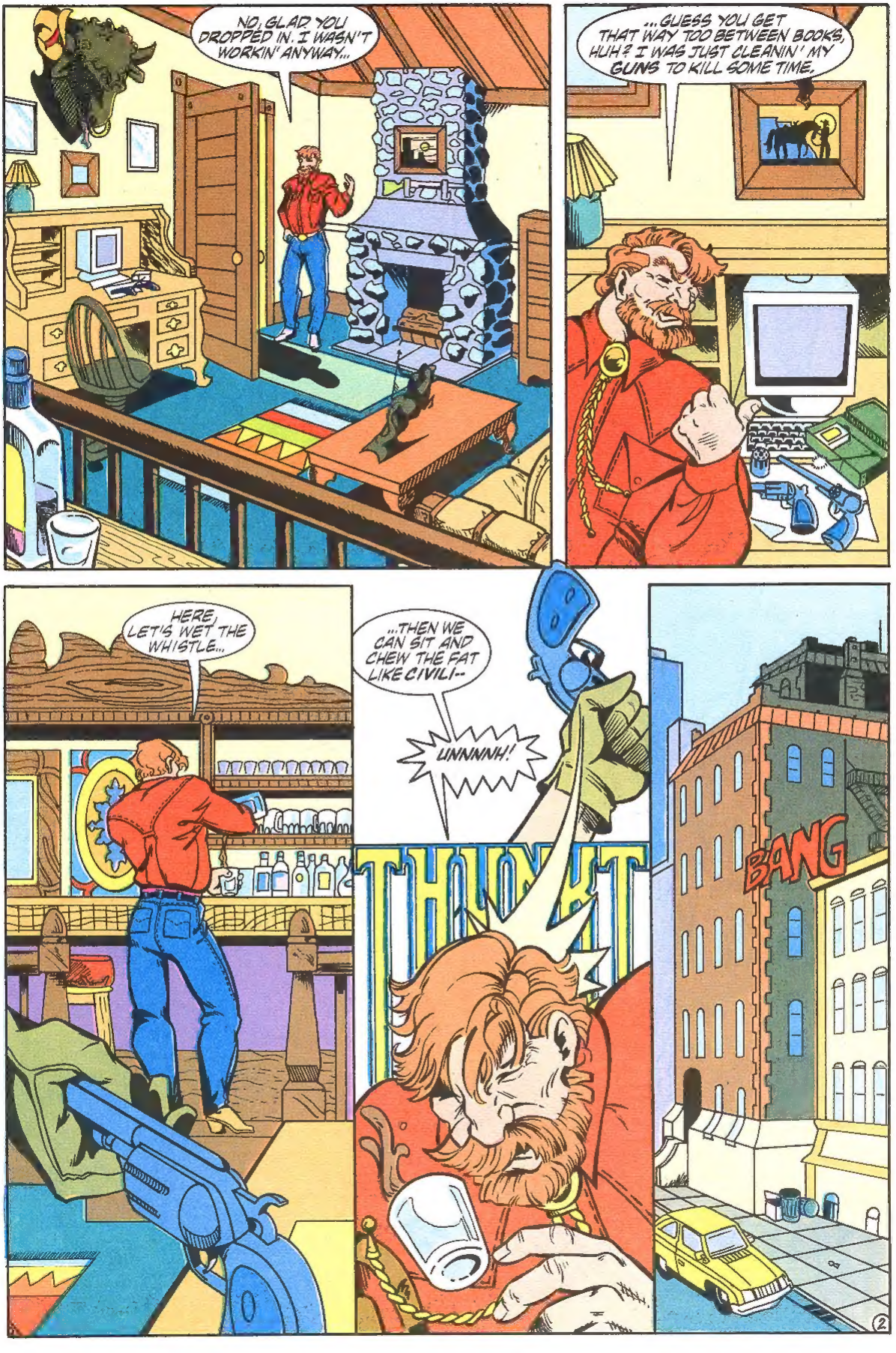
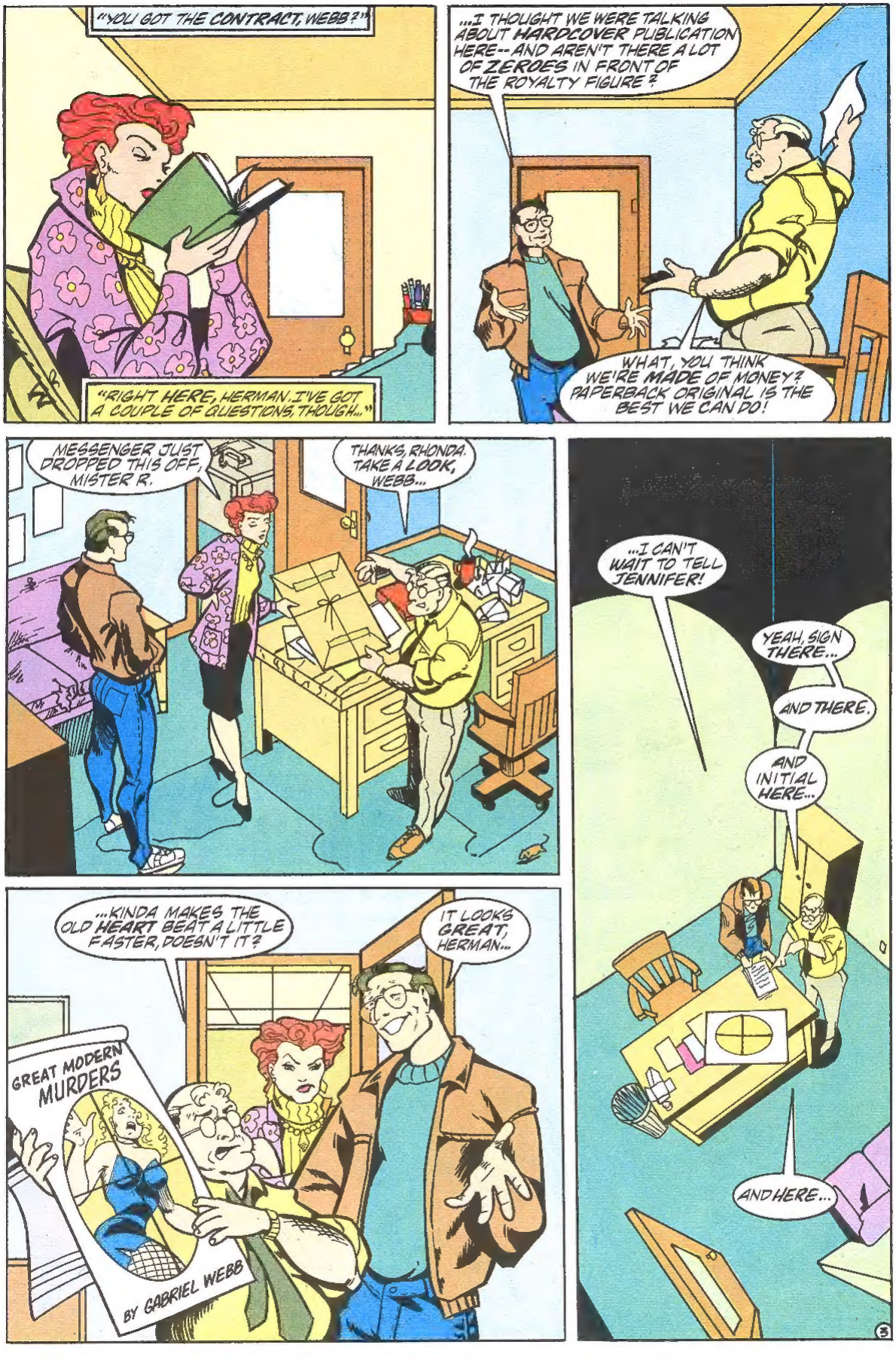


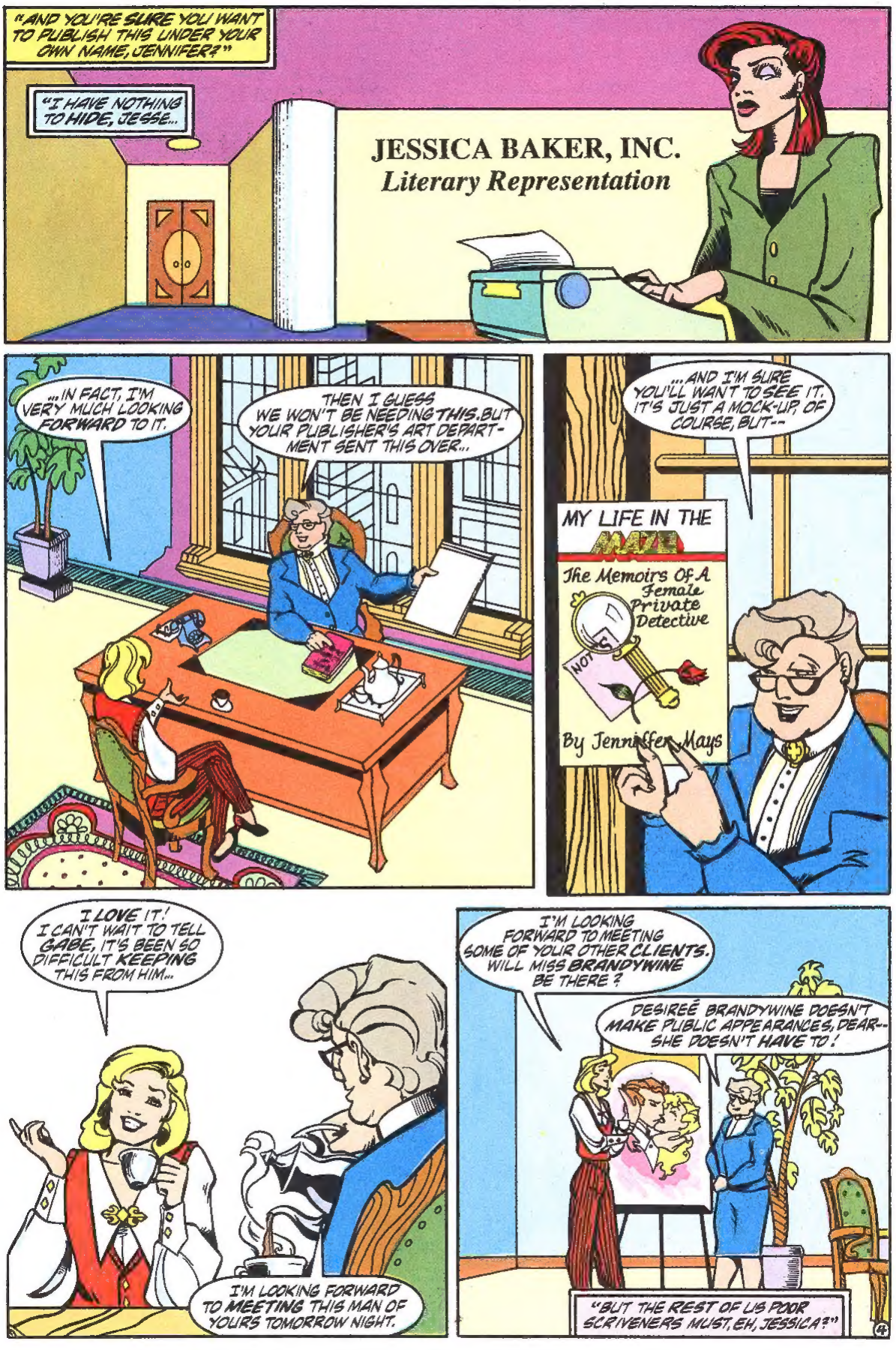
# IF BOOKS COULD KILL

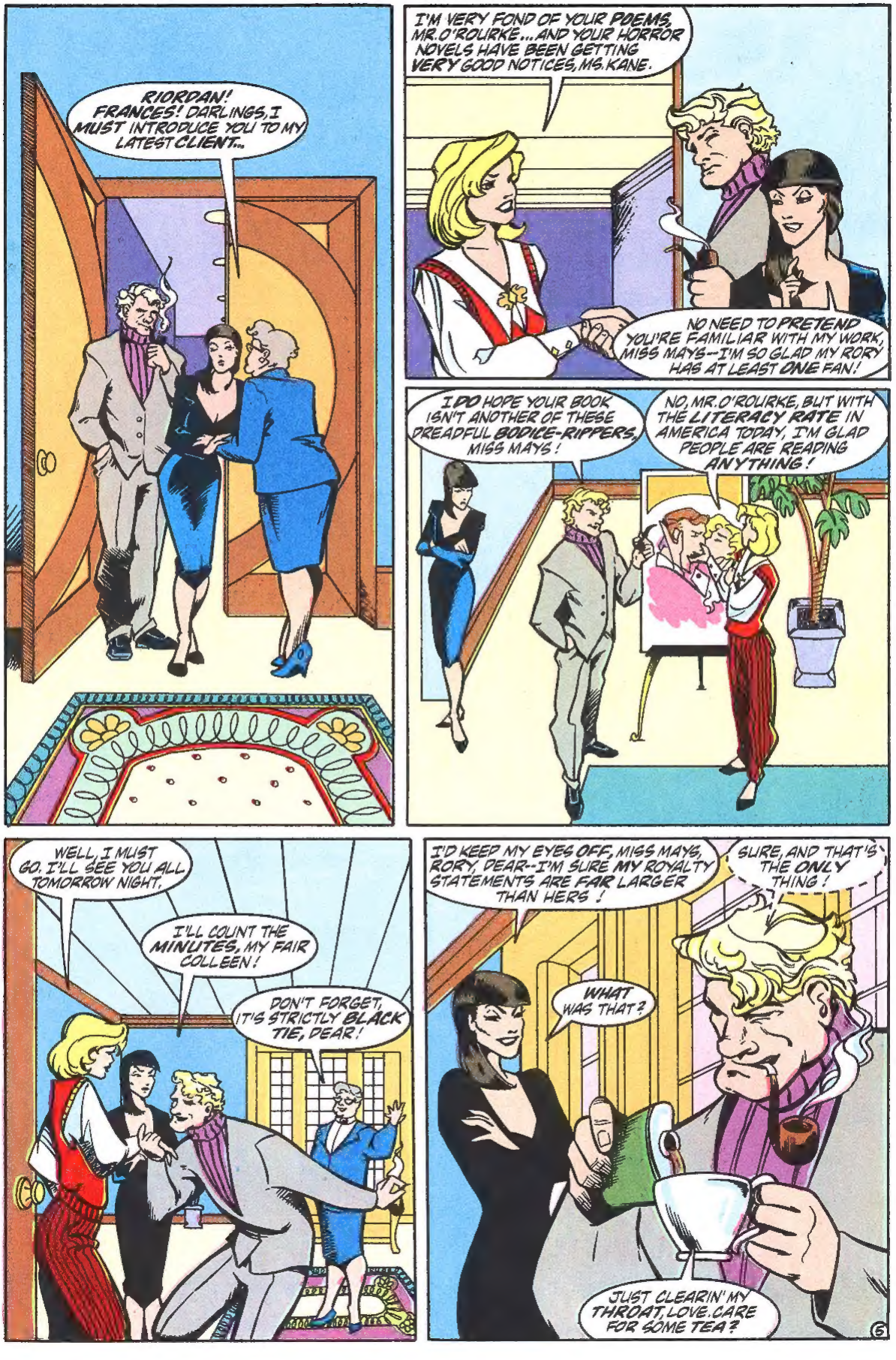
GABRIEL WEBB

JENNIFER MAYS


NO, GLAD YOU DROPPED IN. I WASN'T WORKIN' ANYWAY...
...GUESS YOU GET THAT WAY TOO BETWEEN BOOKS, HUH? I WAS JUST CLEANIN' MY GUNS TO KILL SOME TIME.
HERE, LET'S WET THE WHISTLE...
...THEN WE CAN SIT AND CHEW THE FAT LIKE CIVILI--
UNNNNH!
THUNK
BANG
2

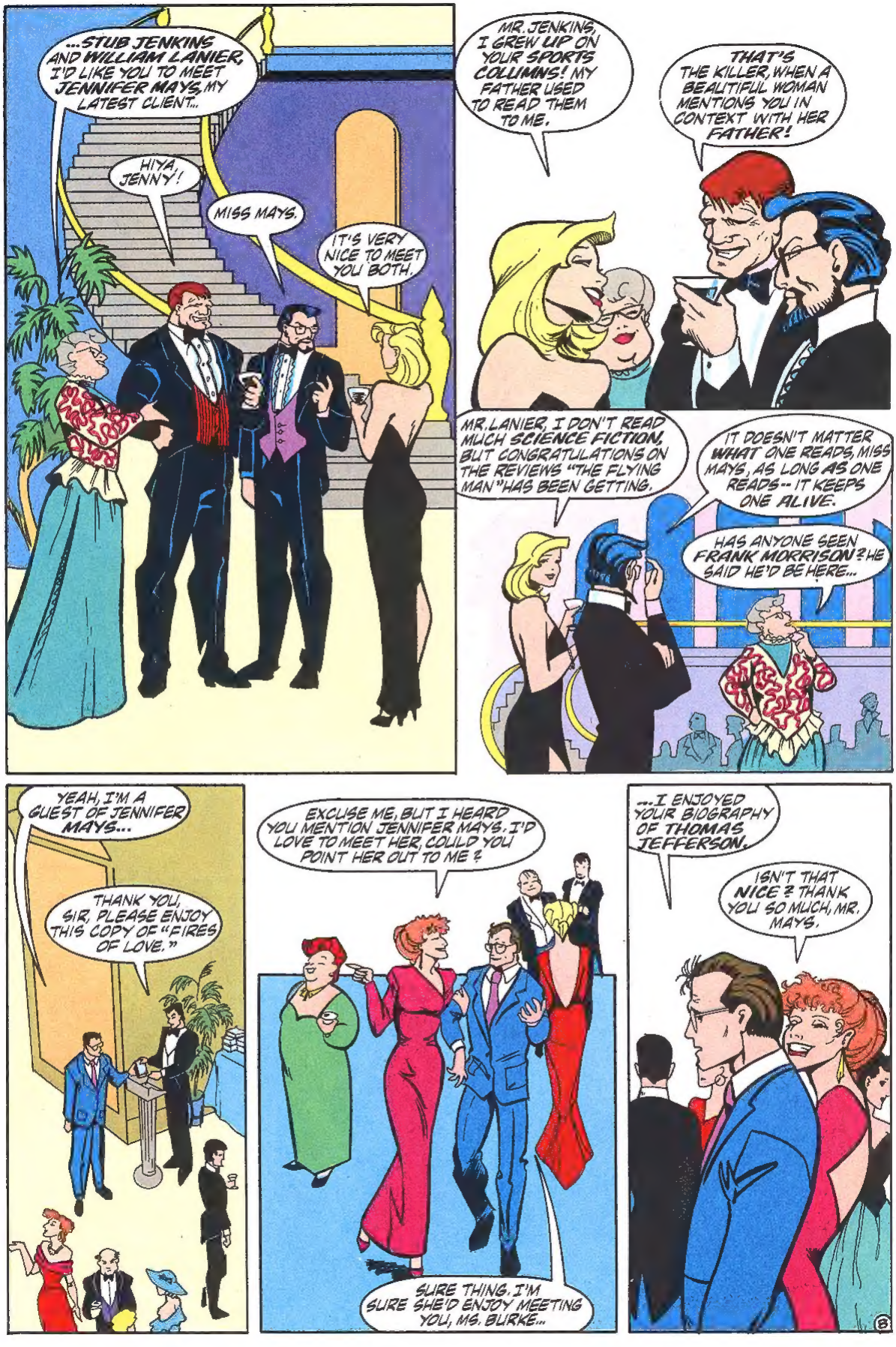

"YOU GOT THE CONTRACT, WEBB?"
"RIGHT HERE, HERMAN. I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, THOUGH..."
...I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HARDCOVER PUBLICATION HERE-- AND AREN'T THERE A LOT OF ZEROES IN FRONT OF THE ROYALTY FIGURE?
WHAT, YOU THINK WE'RE MADE OF MONEY? PAPERBACK ORIGINAL IS THE BEST WE CAN DO!
MESSENGER JUST DROPPED THIS OFF, MISTER R.
THANKS, RHONDA. TAKE A LOOK, WEBB...
...I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL JENNIFER!
YEAH, SIGN THERE...
AND THERE.
AND INITIAL HERE...
AND HERE...
...KINDA MAKES THE OLD HEART BEAT A LITTLE FASTER, DOESN'T IT?
IT LOOKS GREAT, HERMAN...
GREAT MODERN MURDERS
BY GABRIEL WEBB
3


"AND YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO PUBLISH THIS UNDER YOUR OWN NAME, JENNIFER?"
"I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, JESSE...
JESSICA BAKER, INC.
Literary Representation
...IN FACT, I'M VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
THEN I GUESS WE WON'T BE NEEDING THIS. BUT YOUR PUBLISHER'S ART DEPARTMENT SENT THIS OVER...
...AND I'M SURE YOU'LL WANT TO SEE IT. IT'S JUST A MOCK-UP, OF COURSE, BUT--
MY LIFE IN THE MAZE
The Memoirs Of A Female Private Detective
NOT
By Jennifer Mays
I LOVE IT! I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL GABE, IT'S BEEN SO DIFFICULT KEEPING THIS FROM HIM...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING THIS MAN OF YOURS TOMORROW NIGHT.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING SOME OF YOUR OTHER CLIENTS. WILL MISS BRANDYWINE BE THERE?
DESIREE BRANDYWINE DOESN'T MAKE PUBLIC APPEARANCES, DEAR-- SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO!
"BUT THE REST OF US POOR SCRIVENERS MUST, EH, JESSICA?"
4


RIORDAN! FRANCES! DARLINGS, I MUST INTRODUCE YOU TO MY LATEST CLIENT...
I'M VERY FOND OF YOUR POEMS, MR. O'ROURKE... AND YOUR HORROR NOVELS HAVE BEEN GETTING VERY GOOD NOTICES, MS. KANE.
NO NEED TO PRETEND YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY WORK, MISS MAYS--I'M SO GLAD MY RORY HAS AT LEAST ONE FAN!
I DO HOPE YOUR BOOK ISN'T ANOTHER OF THESE DREADFUL BODICE-RIPPERS, MISS MAYS!
NO, MR. O'ROURKE, BUT WITH THE LITERACY RATE IN AMERICA TODAY, I'M GLAD PEOPLE ARE READING ANYTHING!
WELL, I MUST GO. I'LL SEE YOU ALL TOMORROW NIGHT.
I'LL COUNT THE MINUTES, MY FAIR COLLEEN!
DON'T FORGET, IT'S STRICTLY BLACK TIE, DEAR!
I'D KEEP MY EYES OFF, MISS MAYS, RORY, DEAR--I'M SURE MY ROYALTY STATEMENTS ARE FAR LARGER THAN HERS!
SURE, AND THAT'S THE ONLY THING!
WHAT WAS THAT?
JUST CLEARIN' MY THROAT, LOVE. CARE FOR SOME TEA?
6

COOKIES! LET'S SEE...
DOUGHNUTS BAKING SODA SUGAR COOKIES
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT TWO KINDS OF POTATO CHIPS, GABE-- WHY NOT TRY SOME YOGURT?
HO HOS
TWINKIES
BLEACH
YOGURT? YEAH, MAYBE. I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE BAD WITH SOME OREOS MIXED IN IT!
THAT RATHER DEFEATS THE POINT, DOESN'T IT? WELL, BUY WHATEVER YOU LIKE-- I'VE GOT SOME NEWS THAT CAN'T WAIT UNTIL WE GET HOME!
OH, YEAH? ME TOO-- BUT LADIES FIRST.
IT'S SO EXCITING! HONEY, I'VE WRITTEN A BOOK!
COOKIES
YOU HAVE? JEN, WHEN DID YOU FIND TIME?
LAST SUMMER, WHEN I TOOK A COUPLE OF MONTHS OFF, REMEMBER? I WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE!
HEY, THAT'S GREAT, JEN! IF YOU NEED SOME HELP IN FINDING A PUBLISHER, I CAN--
ELLERY QUEEN PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SOME AGENTS; THEY ALL WANTED MY BOOK! CENTURY PRESS WILL BE PUBLISHING IT NEXT YEAR--IN HARDCOVER!
BEER
HARDCOVER, HUH? THAT'S GREAT, BABE...
I KNEW YOU'D BE HAPPY! LET'S DO SOMETHING TO SPEND MY ADVANCE--WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS HUGE!
REVEALER
ELVIS LIVES
UFO REARENDS FORD PINTO VAPORIZES SMALL
REVEALER

THAT'LL BE $53.47, SIR.
ER,.. WILL YOU TAKE A CHECK?
LET ME GET THAT, HONEY.
SURE THING, JEN.
JENNIFER, DEAR, SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT... !
THANK YOU, JESSE, I'M SURE MISS BRANDYWINE WOULD APPROVE OF THIS!
I'M SURE SHE WOULD. BUT WHERE'S YOUR YOUNG MAN?
HE SAID HE'D MEET ME HERE. I HOPE HE COMES.
WITH YOU LOOKING LIKE THAT, HE'D BE A FOOL TO STAND YOU UP! LET'S GET SOME CHAMPAGNE AND INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF MY OTHER CLIENTS...!
7


...STUB JENKINS AND WILLIAM LANIER, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET JENNIFER MAYS, MY LATEST CLIENT...
HIYA, JENNY!
MISS MAYS.
IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU BOTH.
MR. JENKINS, I GREW UP ON YOUR SPORTS COLUMNS! MY FATHER USED TO READ THEM TO ME.
THAT'S THE KILLER, WHEN A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MENTIONS YOU IN CONTEXT WITH HER FATHER!
MR. LANIER, I DON'T READ MUCH SCIENCE FICTION, BUT CONGRATULATIONS ON THE REVIEWS "THE FLYING MAN" HAS BEEN GETTING.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT ONE READS, MISS MAYS, AS LONG AS ONE READS -- IT KEEPS ONE ALIVE.
HAS ANYONE SEEN FRANK MORRISON? HE SAID HE'D BE HERE...
YEAH, I'M A GUEST OF JENNIFER MAYS...
THANK YOU, SIR, PLEASE ENJOY THIS COPY OF "FIRES OF LOVE."
EXCUSE ME, BUT I HEARD YOU MENTION JENNIFER MAYS. I'D LOVE TO MEET HER, COULD YOU POINT HER OUT TO ME?
SURE THING. I'M SURE SHE'D ENJOY MEETING YOU, MS. BURKE...
...I ENJOYED YOUR BIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.
ISN'T THAT NICE? THANK YOU SO MUCH, MR. MAYS.

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**#2 -- "Untouchabots" -- ($2.00)**
**#3 -- Ron Lim cover. Rare! ($3.00)**

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***John Bolton's THE VAMPIRE: WOLF ATTACK! COLOR POSTER***
**(Signed ed. limited to 500) -- $19.95**

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**#1 -- Glen Johnson art! ($3.50)**
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**#3 -- "New Breed" preview ($2.50)**

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***Book Two*** **#1 -- Doug Talalla painted art! ($2.25)**
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**#1 -- Children create Goldbergian gadgets; for younger readers ($2.00)**

***G.I. R.A.M.B.O.T.*** **(Full Color)**
**#1 -- Randy at war. Startling! ($2.50)**

***GNATRAT: THE MOVIE!***
**#1 -- From the pages of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles! Stunning parody of *Batman* movie, by Mark Martin! First printing ($2.50)**

***GREYLORE*** **(Full Color)**
**#1 -- Bo Hampton art! ($6.00)**

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**#1 -- Mike Baron vs gamers, from the creator of *Nexus*! ($2.00)**
**#2 -- Zellerbachs attack! ($1.95)**
**#3 -- Dazzling denouement ($1.95)**
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***Swedish Edition*** **-- Rare find! ($50.00)**

***HERO ALLIANCE: END OF THE GOLDEN AGE*** **(Full Color)**
**#1 -- Legend retold, w/new Bart Sears/Ron Lim art! First printing -- sold out from publisher! ($15.00)**
**#1 -- First printing, signed by the author ($20.00)**
**#1 -- Second printing ($1.95)**
**#2 -- Lim/Sears/Statema art. -- sold out from the publisher! ($10.00)**
**#3 -- Ron Lim, Brasfield art ($3.00)**

***HERO ALLIANCE MONTHLY***
**(Full Color) All-new regular series**
**#1 -- Ron Lim new art! ($2.50)**
**#2 -- Ron Lim new art! Great story, extra pages ($2.00)**
**#3 -- Craig Brasfield art! Plus Ron Lim *Stargrazers*! ($2.00)**
**#4 -- Bob Ingersoll story! ($1.95)**
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**#6 -- How can *you* tell hero from villain? ($50.00) RARE!**
**#7 -- Kris vs Marc! "Shredded costume" Kris cover ($1.95)**
**#8 -- Dastardly doings ($1.95)**
**#9 -- The final fate! ($1.95)**
**#10 -- "Living Legends" ($1.95)**
***ANNUAL #1*** **-- Paul Smith art and cover! Scarce!! ($4.00)**

***HERO ALLIANCE HARDCOVER***
**(Full Color)** ***Nearly sold out!***
**#1 -- Limited edition, signed and numbered by the author ($19.95)**
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*HERO ALLIANCE*
(Full Color) Pub. by Wonder Color
#1 -- The original, long out of print! Ron Lim/Craig Brasfield art ($3.50)

*HERO ALLIANCE: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL* (Full Color)
#1 -- The original! ($12.95)
#1 -- Some w/water damage ($6.00)

*HERO ALLIANCE TEAM POSTER*
(Full Color) #1 -- Glorious 2' x 3', by Ron Lim & Bill Anderson! ($5.95)

*HERO ALLIANCE & JUSTICE MACHINE: IDENTITY CRISIS #1*
(Full Color) #1 -- ($2.75)

*INNOVATION "HOLDING A HIGH STANDARD" COLOR POSTER*
Mando-brite promotional poster, not available in stores! ($5.95)

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*INNOVATION SOLICITATIONS*
(Full Color) #1 -- As above, but never sold in stores! ($7.50)

*INNOVATION SPECTACULAR*
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*JACK FROST*
#1 -- Vampire mystery from the artist of Rocky Horror! ($3.00)
#2 -- VanHook art ($3.00)

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#1 -- By artist of *Cyberpunk*! ($2.50)
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#4 -- Part 3! ($1.95)
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#1 -- John Byrne cover! ($2.75)

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#1 -- First printing! Ron Lim "good girl" art ($5.00)
#2 -- Drug issue! Lim art ($3.00)
#3 -- Ron Lim art ($2.50)
#4 -- Ripped costumes, "tease" cover. Ron Lim art ($2.25)
#5 -- The New Humans debut. Lim/Atkinson art ($2.00)
#6 -- Only authorized 1st printing. Lim art. Scarce! ($3.50)
#7 -- Last authorized issue; 1st printing. Lim art. Scarce ($3.00)
#8 -- Bootleg issue! The first produced without authorization from the creators. Rare! ($6.00)
#1 -- Special Edition, new pages. Ron Lim art ($2.50)

*Lawrence & Lim's EX-MUTANTS: ERIN MINI-SERIES*
#1 -- Authorized 1st printing. Rare! Sizzling Ron Lim art ($10.00)

*Lawrence & Lim's THE NEW HUMANS*
#1 -- Rare! Ron Lim art ($10.00)
#2 -- Lim cover ($8.00)
#3 -- Scarce! Ron Lim bondage cover! ($6.00)

*LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS* (Full Color) The finest "good girl in space" art this side of Dave Stevens!
#1 -- Adam Hughes cover. Thompson /Elliott art. Sexy. ($2.50)
#2 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Yeates art. Julie in the sonic shower! ($2.25)
#3 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, *hot* bondage issue! SOLD OUT FROM THE PUBLISHER ($5.00)
#4 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Yeates art. Bradbury hommage ($1.95)
#5 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Tsuda art. Treasure hunt! ($1.95)
#6 -- More pages! "All The Sins That Are My Life" are the startling secrets of Julie Green ($2.50)

*LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS PORTFOLIO*
*Seven* art-sized plates by Adam Hughes. Gorgeous! ($12.95)

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#1 -- Stunning 2' x 3', art by Matt Thompson & Randy Elliott ($5.95)

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#1 -- 100 pgs., Hughes cover ($9.95)
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*LUNATIC FRINGE* (Full Color) (also see *OVERTURE*)
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#11 -- "Christmas Crime" ($1.95)
#12 -- Adam Hughes art! ($2.50)
#13 -- Hughes cover! "Justice Girl" ($1.95)
#14 -- Paul Smith cover! ($1.95)
#15 -- All about Bliss! Bingham cover. Art by Okamoto, artist of Vampire Lestat! ($1.95)
#16 -- Russ Heath cover! ($1.95)
SPECIAL #1 -- Bill Willingham, Alan Davis, Magyar art! ($2.75)
ANNUAL #1 --Eisner hommage issue. Art by Ploog and Loebs! ($2.75)

*MAZE BOOK: THE MAZE AGENCY COLLECTION* (Trade Pbk.)
#1 -- With new Adam Hughes art and cover! ($10.95)

*NEWSTRALIA* (Full Color) From Timothy Truman -- the creator of DC's *Hawkworld*
#1 -- Tim Truman/VanHook/ Gustovich. Ltd. quantities ($5.00)
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#1 -- By Alex Nino! ($1.95)

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*OVERTURE*
#1 -- All-new, well-done super-hero humor! Recommended! ($2.25)
#2 -- Insanity reigns ($2.25)

*POWER FACTOR* (Full Color)
#1 -- First printing! Tom (*Starman*) Lyle art ($3.00)
#2 -- Scarce! Infantino art! ($4.00)

*POWER FACTOR* (Full Color)
#1 -- Innovation's new version premieres! ($1.95)
#2 -- Visceral! ($2.25)

*PROFESSOR OM!* (Full Color)
#1 -- Adventures from "down under" by Paul Power, mate! ($2.50)

*SCARAMOUCH*
#1 -- Weird horror series! ($2.25)

*SCARLET KISS: THE VAMPYRE*
#1 -- 52 pp.! High school girls as vampires. Guice cover! ($3.00)

*SERAPHIM* (Full Color)
#1 -- A fully-painted cyberpunk saga! Art by Doug Talalla ($2.50)

*SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Premiere Graphic Novel)
#1 --*A Study In Scarlet* ($5.95)

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*STRAW MEN*
#1 -- Sophisticated suspense from the creators of *Scimidar*! ($3.00)
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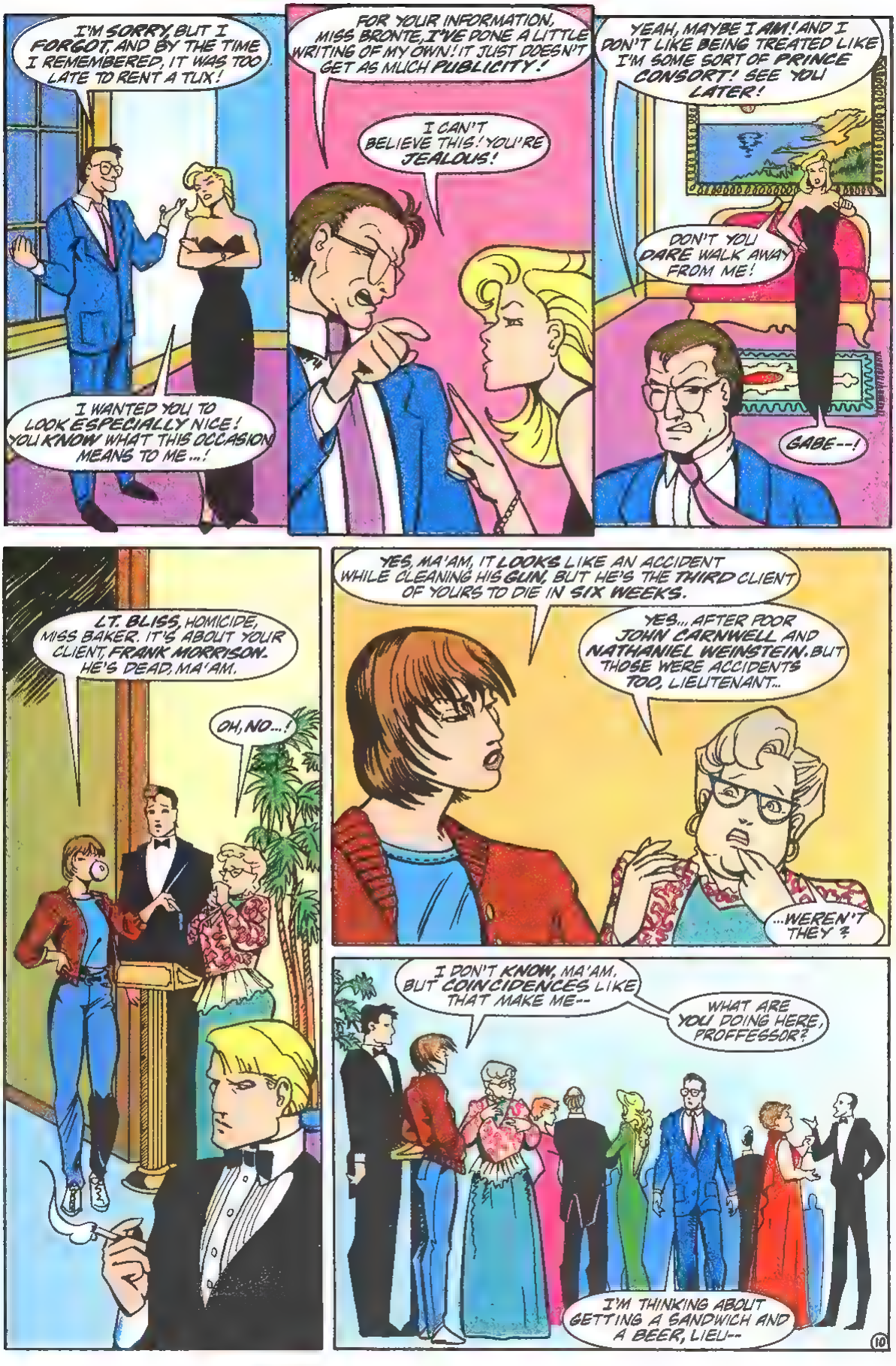
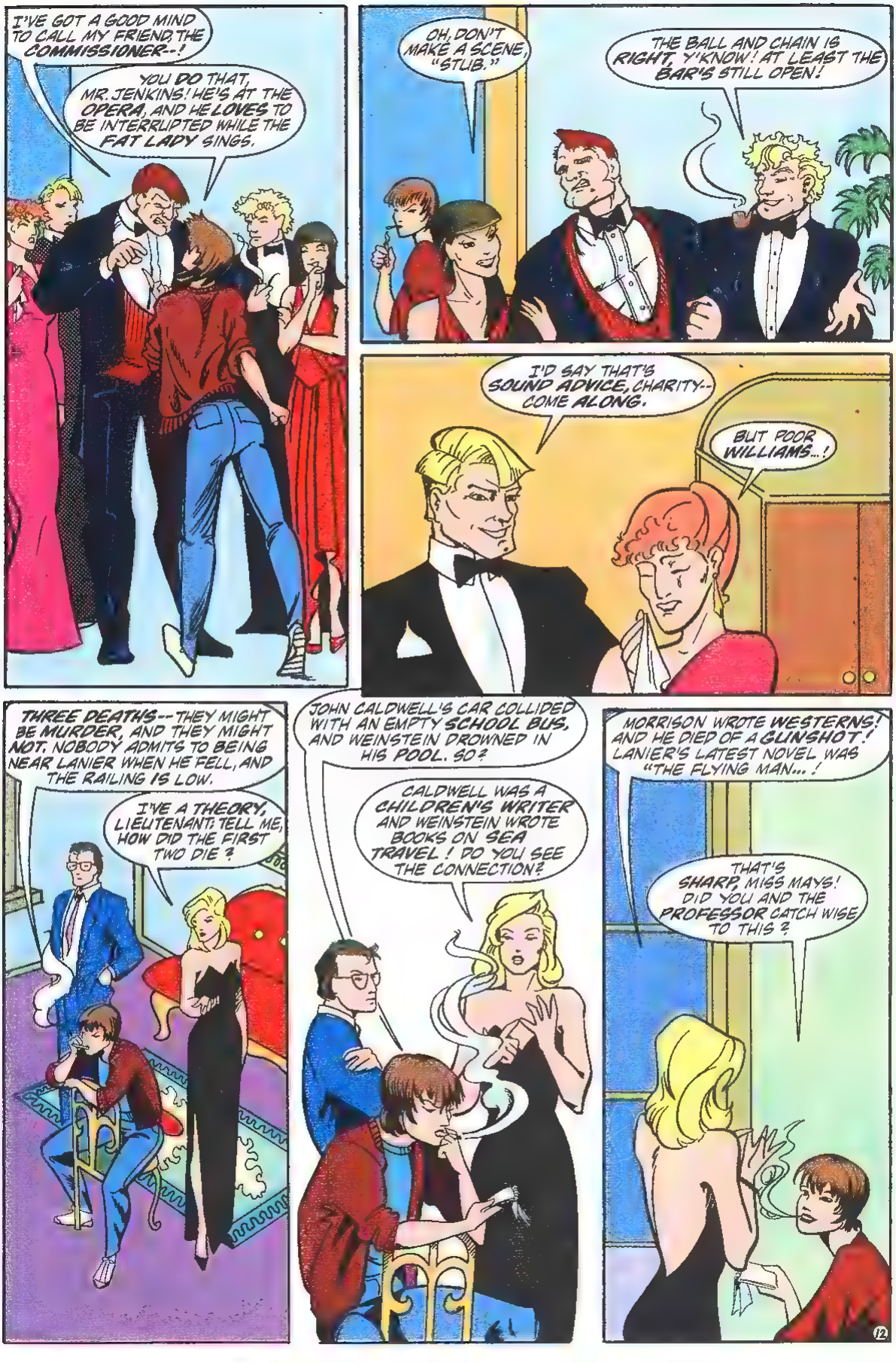
*TIMEDRIFTER*
#1 -- From Gerard Jones of JLE and The Trouble with Girls! ($2.25)

*VOYAGES* (Color/B&W Trade Pbk.)
#1 -- Brunner, Chaykin, Muth, and more! 1st edition! SOLD OUT FROM THE PUBLISHER! ($15.00)

ERIC, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MR. MAYS-- WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST NAME?
GABRIEL MAYS.
GABE, BUT I'M NOT--
INDEED?
ERIC BLAIR, MR. MAYS.
NO, MY NAME'S--
I'M SURE YOU'VE READ SOME OF MY INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLERS-- "THE BIFROST CONUNDRUM," "THE PIERSALL AMENDMENT"...
"THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER?"
HEH. YES, OF COURSE.
HERE YOU ARE.
HI, JEN! YOU LOOK GREAT!
MS. MAYS, I'M CHARITY BURKE. JESSE SHOWED ME SOME OF YOUR BOOK, AND I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL.
IT'S MISS MAYS, MS. BURKE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT?
SURELY...
JEN, WHAT'S--?
DON'T YOU DARE ASK ME "WHAT'S WRONG," MISTER. I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BLACK TIE AFFAIR. LOOK AT YOU!
9


I'M SORRY, BUT I FORGOT, AND BY THE TIME I REMEMBERED, IT WAS TOO LATE TO RENT A TUX!
I WANTED YOU TO LOOK ESPECIALLY NICE! YOU KNOW WHAT THIS OCCASION MEANS TO ME...!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, MISS BRONTE, I'VE DONE A LITTLE WRITING OF MY OWN! IT JUST DOESN'T GET AS MUCH PUBLICITY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! YOU'RE JEALOUS!
YEAH, MAYBE I AM! AND I DON'T LIKE BEING TREATED LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF PRINCE CONSORT! SEE YOU LATER!
DON'T YOU DARE WALK AWAY FROM ME!
GABE--!
LT. BLISS, HOMICIDE, MISS BAKER. IT'S ABOUT YOUR CLIENT, FRANK MORRISON. HE'S DEAD, MA'AM.
OH, NO...!
YES, MA'AM, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT WHILE CLEANING HIS GUN, BUT HE'S THE THIRD CLIENT OF YOURS TO DIE IN SIX WEEKS.
YES... AFTER POOR JOHN CARNWELL AND NATHANIEL WEINSTEIN. BUT THOSE WERE ACCIDENTS TOO, LIEUTENANT...
...WEREN'T THEY?
I DON'T KNOW, MA'AM, BUT COINCIDENCES LIKE THAT MAKE ME--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, PROFFESSOR?
I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING A SANDWICH AND A BEER, LIEU--
10

MY WORD..
HOLY JUMPING GOD..!
WHAT THE HELL--?
AAAGGGHHHHH--!
KRASSSH
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE..!
NO HURRY.
--SUCH ARROGANCE, I'VE NEVER --
--A POLICE STATE, THAT'S ALL IT IS.
--CALL MY LAWYER--
HOLD ON EVERYBODY! THIS MIGHT NOT BE AN ACCIDENT! NO ONE'S LEAVING UNTIL I'M SURE!


I'VE GOT A GOOD MIND TO CALL MY FRIEND THE COMMISSIONER--!
YOU DO THAT, MR. JENKINS! HE'S AT THE OPERA, AND HE LOVES TO BE INTERRUPTED WHILE THE FAT LADY SINGS.
OH, DON'T MAKE A SCENE, "STUB."
THE BALL AND CHAIN IS RIGHT, Y'KNOW! AT LEAST THE BAR'S STILL OPEN!
I'D SAY THAT'S SOUND ADVICE, CHARITY-- COME ALONG.
BUT POOR WILLIAMS...!
THREE DEATHS-- THEY MIGHT BE MURDER, AND THEY MIGHT NOT. NOBODY ADMITS TO BEING NEAR LANIER WHEN HE FELL, AND THE RAILING IS LOW.
I'VE A THEORY, LIEUTENANT: TELL ME, HOW DID THE FIRST TWO DIE?
JOHN CALDWELL'S CAR COLLIDED WITH AN EMPTY SCHOOL BUS, AND WEINSTEIN DROWNED IN HIS POOL. SO?
CALDWELL WAS A CHILDREN'S WRITER AND WEINSTEIN WROTE BOOKS ON SEA TRAVEL! DO YOU SEE THE CONNECTION?
MORRISON WROTE WESTERNS! AND HE DIED OF A GUNSHOT! LANIER'S LATEST NOVEL WAS "THE FLYING MAN...!
THAT'S SHARP, MISS MAYS! DID YOU AND THE PROFESSOR CATCH WISE TO THIS?
12

HERO ALLIANCE
Godhood's Not All It's Cracked Up To Be!

HERO ALLIANCE & JUSTICE MACHINE
Deluxe IDENTITY CRISIS

FLARE
A Hero Comic Of Terrific Proportions!

INNOVATION

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# INNOVATION™

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For: immediate release**

**ISABELLA RETURNS TO JUSTICE MACHINE**

Innovation's Justice Machine #5 marks the reunion of best-selling writer Tony Isabella and Justice Machine creator/illustrator Mike Gustovich. When these two last collaborated on the series, during the Comico run of Justice Machine, this title reached its highest readership levels ever.

"Betrayed," written by Tony Isabella and illustrated by Mike Gustovich (The Avengers), is the first chapter in the trilogy "Demon, We Hardly Knew Ye," which starts off with the Justice Machine members' return to their own universe at the end of June's Hero Alliance/Justice Machine crossover, only to find that, in their own universe, they have been unwitting pawns of an evil worldwide conglomerate.

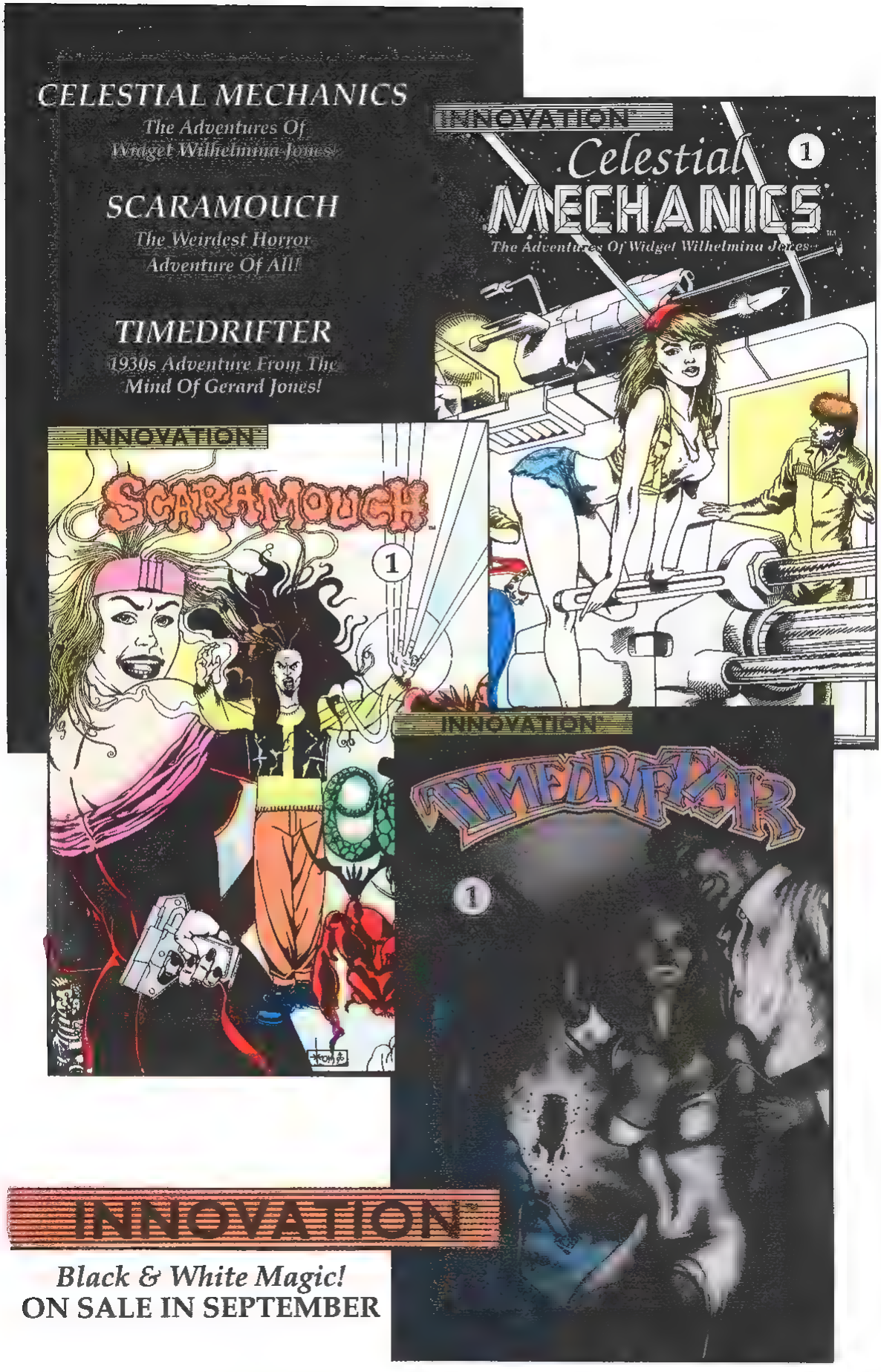
The Justice Machine team then goes free-lance to put a permanent stop to the insidious machinations of the Uoumi Company, and its sadistic leader, Oyabun.

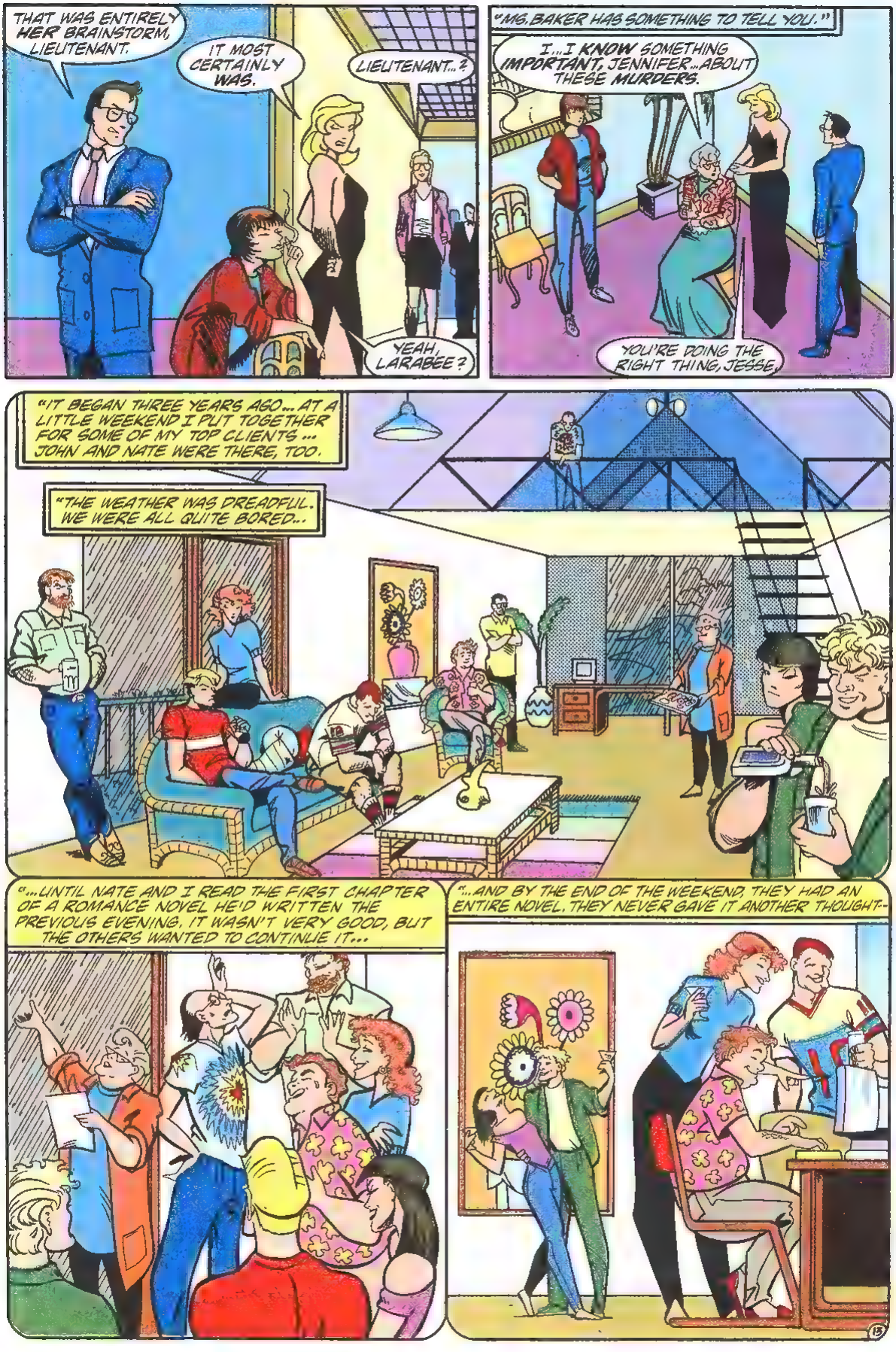
"I've always thought that Tony (Isabella) was the best writer Justice Machine has ever had," said Justice Machine creator/illustrator Mike Gustovich. "It's good to have him bac' on the book again."

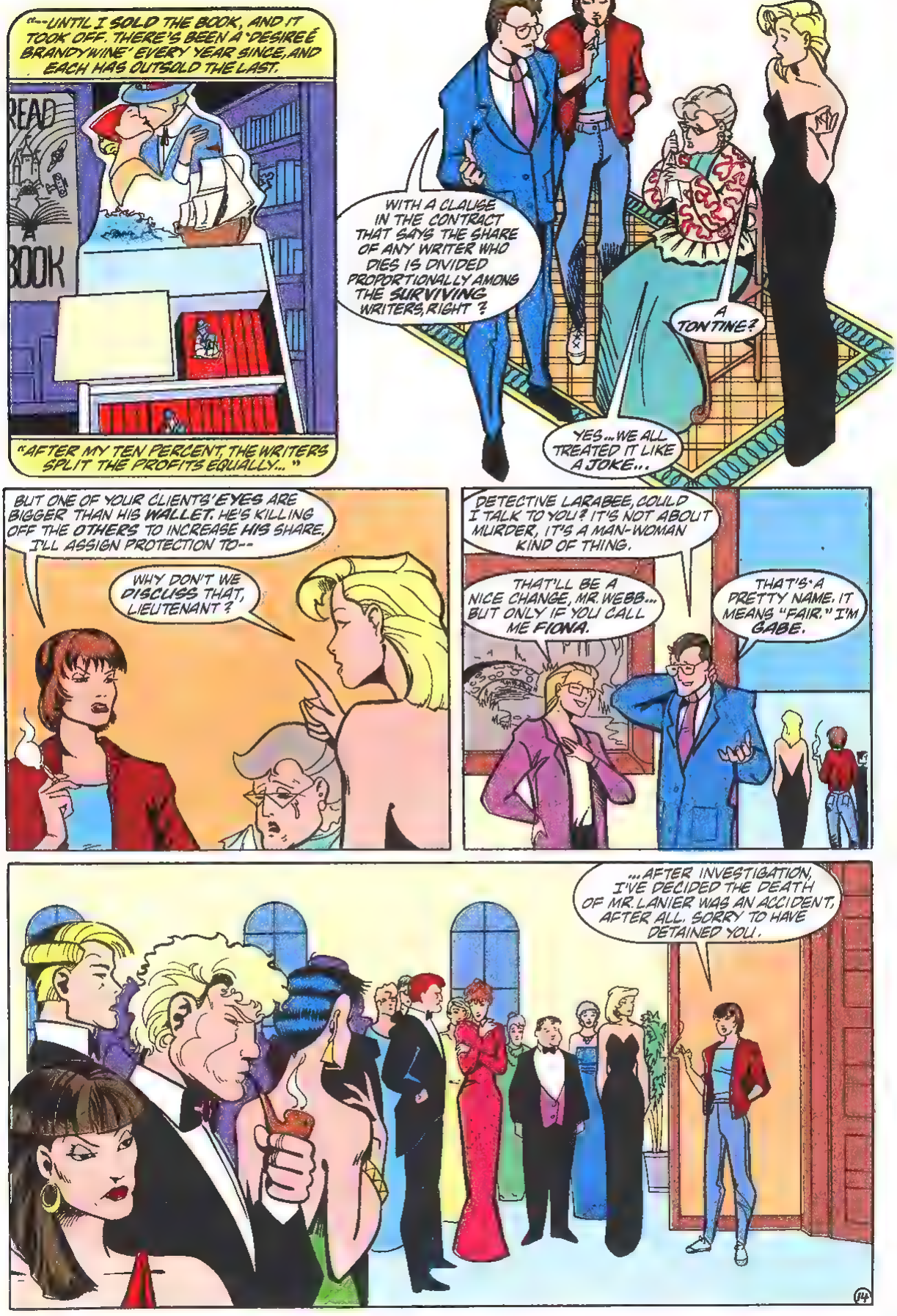
"I'm really getting a kick out of working with the characters again," said writer Tony Isabella. "Along with most vile villain I've ever seen, we've got quite a few oth surprises planned to shake things up and rekindle th excitement that has always been a part of Justice Machine.

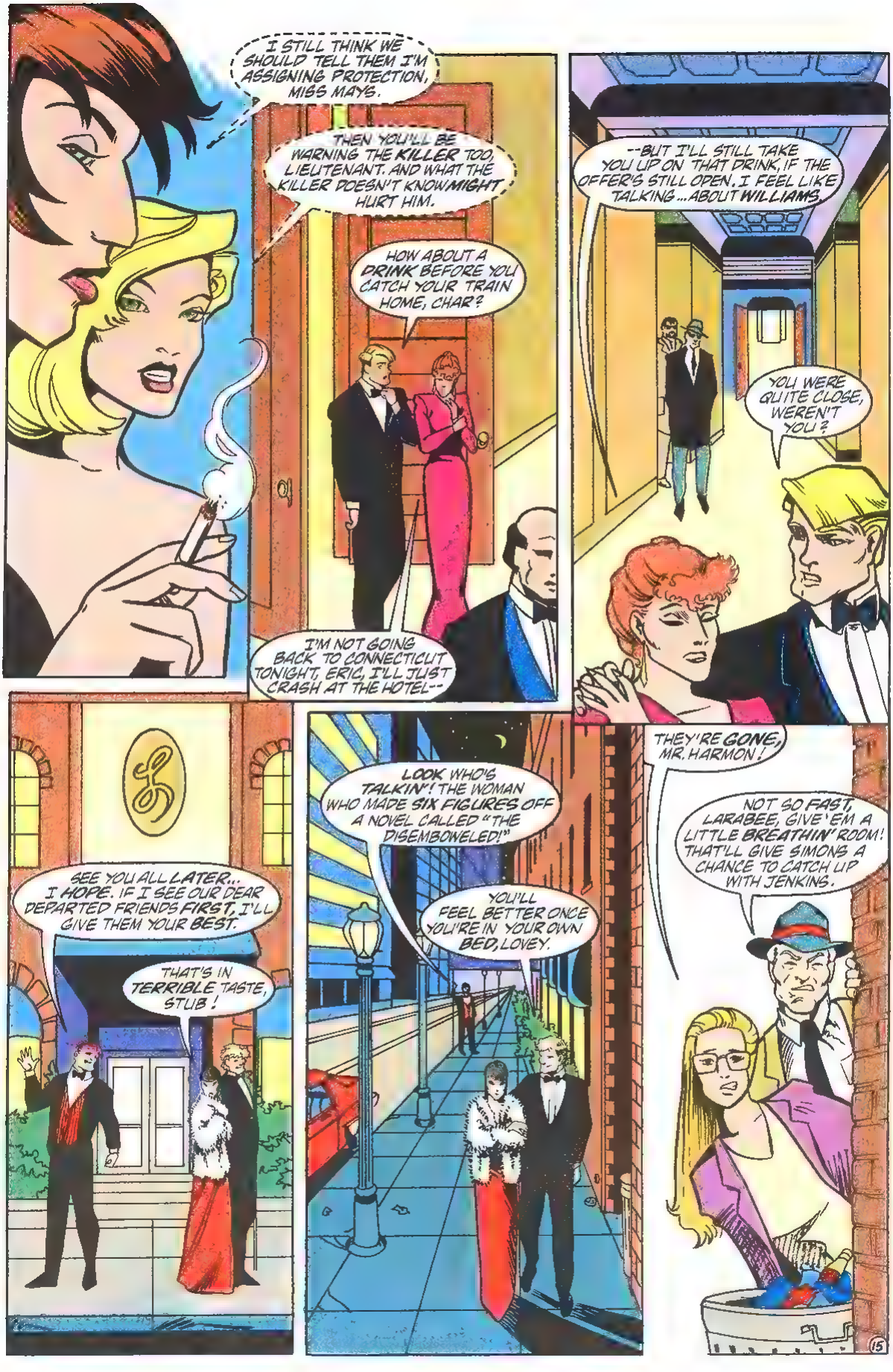
"It's fun, but coming back to Justice Machine has be quite a challenge, too," Isabella continued. "Coping with changes this series has gone through over the years and m a fresh start, while still keeping on track with th Justice Machine continuity, has not been eas well worth the effort."

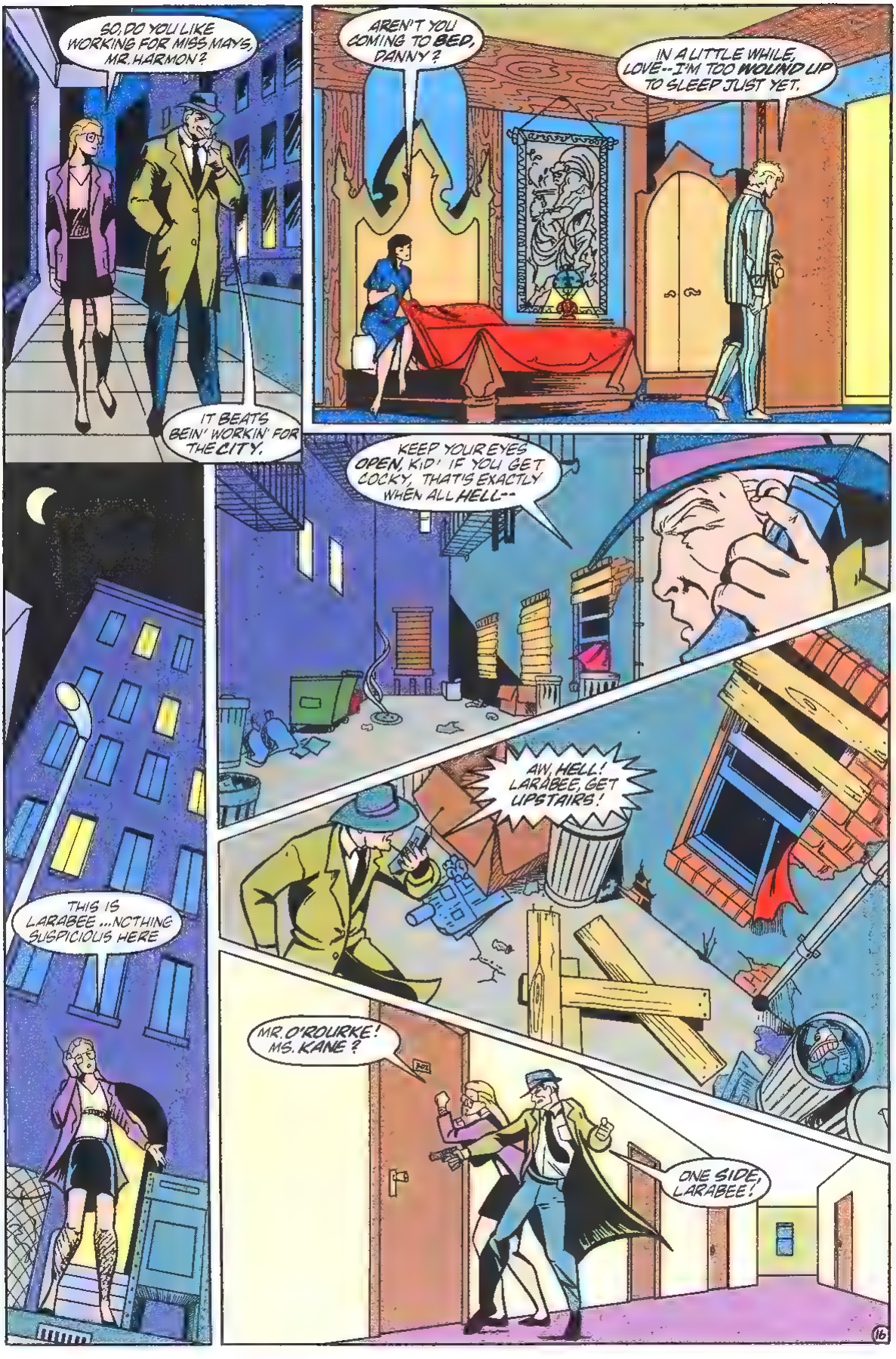
In full color, with a cover is scheduled to ship I


CELESTIAL MECHANICS
The Adventures Of Widget Wilhelmina Jones!
SCARAMOUCH
The Weirdest Horror Adventure Of All!
TIMEDRIFTER
1930s Adventure From The Mind Of Gerard Jones!


THAT WAS ENTIRELY HER BRAINSTORM, LIEUTENANT.
IT MOST CERTAINLY WAS.
LIEUTENANT...?
YEAH, LARABEE?
"MS. BAKER HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU."
I...I KNOW SOMETHING IMPORTANT, JENNIFER...ABOUT THESE MURDERS.
YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, JESSE.
"IT BEGAN THREE YEARS AGO... AT A LITTLE WEEKEND I PUT TOGETHER FOR SOME OF MY TOP CLIENTS ... JOHN AND NATE WERE THERE, TOO.
"THE WEATHER WAS DREADFUL. WE WERE ALL QUITE BORED...
"...UNTIL NATE AND I READ THE FIRST CHAPTER OF A ROMANCE NOVEL HE'D WRITTEN THE PREVIOUS EVENING. IT WASN'T VERY GOOD, BUT THE OTHERS WANTED TO CONTINUE IT...
"...AND BY THE END OF THE WEEKEND, THEY HAD AN ENTIRE NOVEL. THEY NEVER GAVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT-
13


"--UNTIL I SOLD THE BOOK, AND IT TOOK OFF. THERE'S BEEN A 'DESIREÉ BRANDYWINE' EVERY YEAR SINCE, AND EACH HAS OUTSOLD THE LAST.
"AFTER MY TEN PERCENT, THE WRITERS SPLIT THE PROFITS EQUALLY... "
WITH A CLAUSE IN THE CONTRACT THAT SAYS THE SHARE OF ANY WRITER WHO DIES IS DIVIDED PROPORTIONALLY AMONG THE SURVIVING WRITERS, RIGHT ?
A TONTINE?
YES... WE ALL TREATED IT LIKE A JOKE...
BUT ONE OF YOUR CLIENTS' EYES ARE BIGGER THAN HIS WALLET. HE'S KILLING OFF THE OTHERS TO INCREASE HIS SHARE. I'LL ASSIGN PROTECTION TO--
WHY DON'T WE DISCUSS THAT, LIEUTENANT ?
DETECTIVE LARABEE, COULD I TALK TO YOU? IT'S NOT ABOUT MURDER, IT'S A MAN-WOMAN KIND OF THING.
THAT'LL BE A NICE CHANGE, MR. WEBB... BUT ONLY IF YOU CALL ME FIONA.
THAT'S A PRETTY NAME. IT MEANS "FAIR." I'M GABE.
...AFTER INVESTIGATION, I'VE DECIDED THE DEATH OF MR. LANIER WAS AN ACCIDENT, AFTER ALL. SORRY TO HAVE DETAINED YOU.
14


I STILL THINK WE SHOULD TELL THEM I'M ASSIGNING PROTECTION, MISS MAYS.
THEN YOU'LL BE WARNING THE KILLER TOO, LIEUTENANT. AND WHAT THE KILLER DOESN'T KNOW MIGHT HURT HIM.
HOW ABOUT A DRINK BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR TRAIN HOME, CHAR?
I'M NOT GOING BACK TO CONNECTICUT TONIGHT, ERIC, I'LL JUST CRASH AT THE HOTEL--
--BUT I'LL STILL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT DRINK, IF THE OFFER'S STILL OPEN. I FEEL LIKE TALKING ... ABOUT WILLIAMS.
YOU WERE QUITE CLOSE, WEREN'T YOU?
SEE YOU ALL LATER... I HOPE. IF I SEE OUR DEAR DEPARTED FRIENDS FIRST, I'LL GIVE THEM YOUR BEST.
THAT'S IN TERRIBLE TASTE, STUB!
LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'! THE WOMAN WHO MADE SIX FIGURES OFF A NOVEL CALLED "THE DISEMBOWELED!"
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER ONCE YOU'RE IN YOUR OWN BED, LOVEY.
THEY'RE GONE, MR. HARMON!
NOT SO FAST, LARABEE, GIVE 'EM A LITTLE BREATHIN' ROOM! THAT'LL GIVE SIMONS A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH JENKINS.
15


SO, DO YOU LIKE WORKING FOR MISS MAYS, MR. HARMON?
IT BEATS BEIN' WORKIN' FOR THE CITY.
AREN'T YOU COMING TO BED, DANNY?
IN A LITTLE WHILE, LOVE--I'M TOO WOUND UP TO SLEEP JUST YET.
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, KID! IF YOU GET COCKY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHEN ALL HELL--
AW, HELL! LARABEE, GET UPSTAIRS!
THIS IS LARABEE ...NOTHING SUSPICIOUS HERE
MR. O'ROURKE! MS. KANE?
ONE SIDE, LARABEE!

from the desk of
Jennifer Mays

# the MAZE AGENTS

3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

*We've a short lettercol this time, because we want to talk a little bit about the foreign versions of* ***THE MAZE AGENCY****!*

*First, though, a few words about this wonderful issue illustrated by* ***Mary Mitchell****! Former Innovation art director Scott Rockwell and I met Mary -- courtesy of writer John Ostrander -- at the Motor City Con in Deerborn, Michigan, early this year. Mary's one of the sweetest, softest-spoken people we've ever had the pleasure of meeting. And her samples were wonderful, unique -- cartoony, yet expressive.*

*We decided that we'd all die happy if we could have her illustrate a book that a.) she'd be appropriate for, and b.) would sell to today's comics market.*

*I showed her stuff to* ***MAZE*** *grand high poobah* ***Mike W. Barr****, who agreed that she deserved a shot at* ***MAZE****. We were thrilled with the lovely results -- certainly not as realistic as, say, Adam Hughes's work, but the characters lived, breathed, virtually pulsated with a life and reality all their own. Let us know what you think, okay?*

*Now, on to a letter (to justify calling this our letter column, I suppose)...*

Dear Mike and Company--

***THE MAZE AGENCY*** is one of my favorite comics! Every month I buy ***MAZE*** to see "whodunnit" and what Jen and Gabe are getting themselves into.

Mike, your mysteries are always excellent. I have to admit that I almost always pick the wrong suspect to have done it; I enjoy the characterizations, though, most of all.

Robb Phipps' and Rick Magyar's artwork is very good. I think new penciller Robb does a great job on people in the stories but needs to work a little more on the background details.

I have to mention that Rick's complete art in ***THE MAZE AGENCY SPECIAL #1*** story "Murder By A Hair" was awesome!

Well, keep up the excellent, quality work, Mazes! I'll be waiting for the next mystery.

A Maze Fan...

Drew Boynton
Rt. 3, Box 217
Concordia, MO 64020

*We agree, Drew! We love Robb and Rick's work. They've been tackling a comics-related project with Mike Barr at TSR, so be on the lookout for that!*

*Out of all the books Innovation publishes, from* ***Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*** *through* ***HERO ALLIANCE****, it seems that* ***THE MAZE AGENCY*** *is, by far, our most popular book in Europe.*

*Thanks to Semic Press's* ***Lotta Fjelkegard*** *and* ***Anders Eklund****,* ***THE MAZE AGENCY*** *is currently reprinted in black-and-white in Sweden, with Norway and Denmark not far behind.*

*We all get a kick out of receiving issues of* Serie Magasinet *(starting with issue #10) -- and seeing our favorite characters saying words we don't recognize but fondly remember from our own language. (At least, we hope they're saying pretty much the same things!)*

*NEXT ISSUE: It's a beautiful October night, and Gabe and Jen are camping with their freinds, the Rydell family. But Carly, the Rydell's 15-year-old daughter, has become involved with The Church of Michael, a religious cult!*

***THE MAZE AGENCY #17****, "Terrible Swift Sword," is written by* ***Mike W. Barr****, of course -- and illustrated by* ***Darick Robertson****, last seen pencilling most of the Eisner hommage in* ***THE MAZE AGENCY ANNUAL*** *and next appearing in the Innovation adaptation of Universal Studios' movie* ***CHILD'S PLAY 2****. It's inked by* ***Jim Sinclair*** *and* ***Keith Aiken****.*

*Look for it in just a few weeks!*

***-- David Campiti***
***August, 1990***

*LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS #6*

*"All The Sins That Are My Life..."*

*THE MAZE AGENCY ANNUAL #1*

*Get Into The Spirit Of A Celebration!*

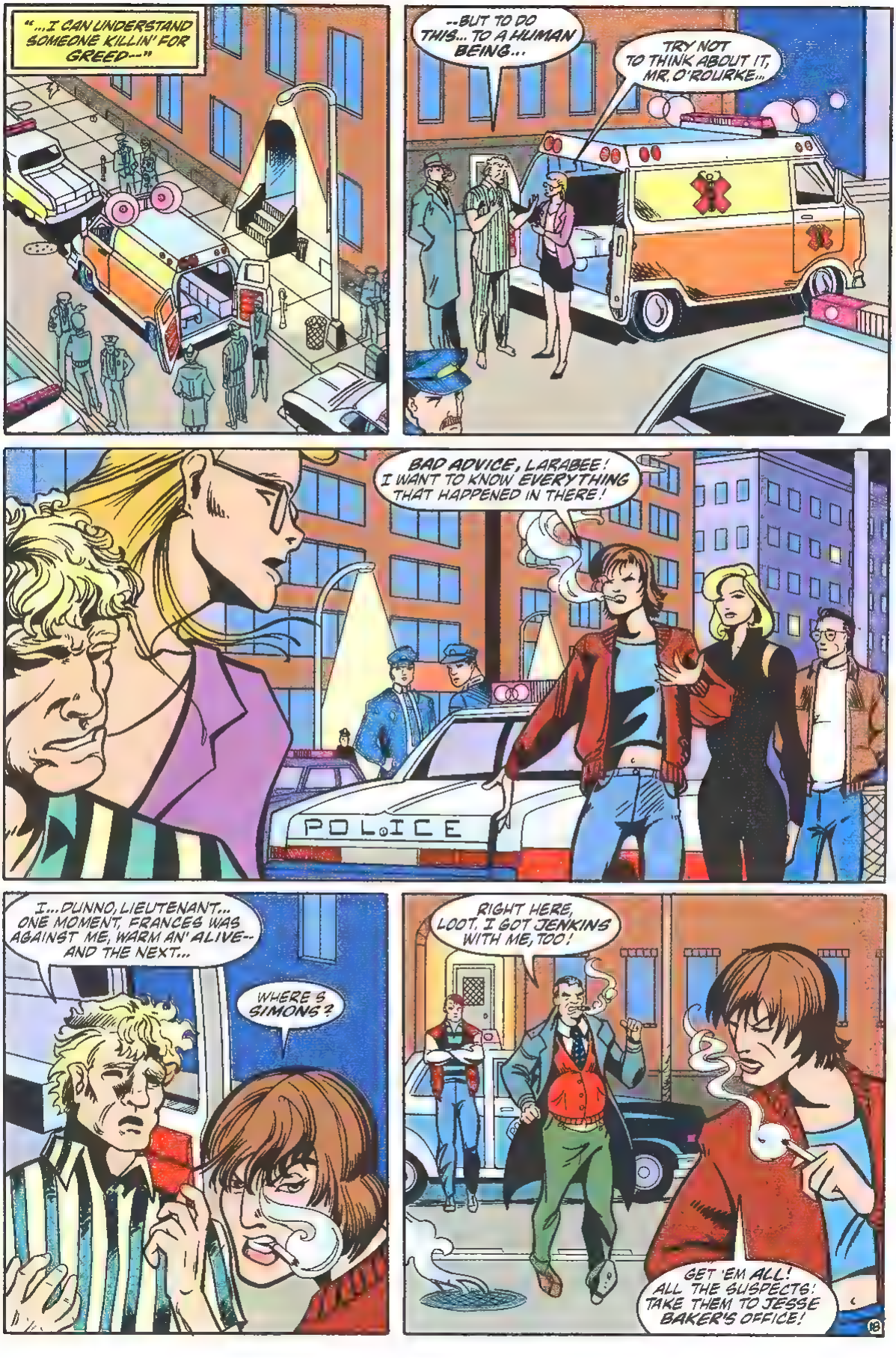
*THE JUSTICE MACHINE #4*

*The Startling Conclusion*

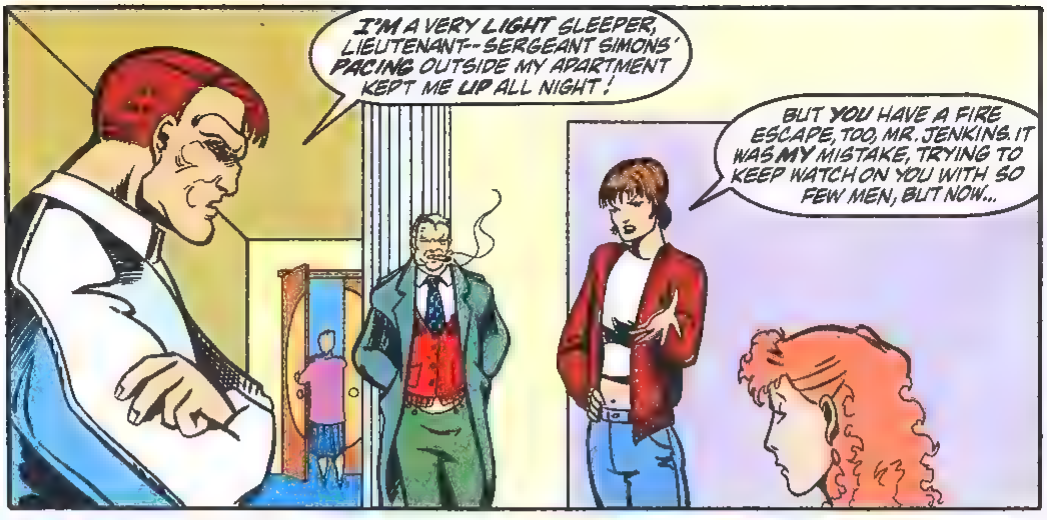
# INNOVATION™

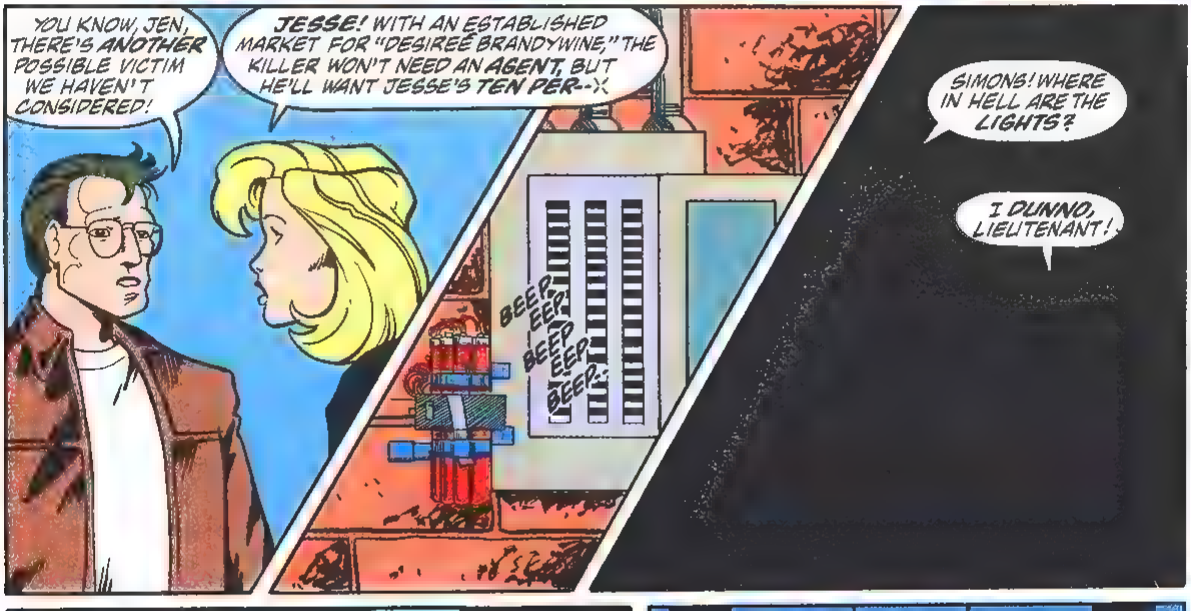
**Full-Color Adventures ON SALE THIS MONTH!**

ZINNNNG
SPWEEEEEE
STAY BACK, LARABEE, THERE'S NO TELLIN'--
DOWN!
BANG BANG BANG
CHECK ON THEM, LARABEE--I'M GOIN' OUT!
NUTS--! I NEVER EVEN GOT A LOOK AT 'IM!
>GASP<
I'VE CALLED AN AMBULANCE...WILL YE HELP ME WITH HER?
19


"...I CAN UNDERSTAND SOMEONE KILLIN' FOR GREED--"
--BUT TO DO THIS... TO A HUMAN BEING...
TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT, MR. O'ROURKE...
BAD ADVICE, LARABEE! I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THERE!
POLICE
I...DUNNO, LIEUTENANT... ONE MOMENT, FRANCES WAS AGAINST ME, WARM AN' ALIVE-- AND THE NEXT...
WHERE'S SIMONS?
RIGHT HERE, LOOT. I GOT JENKINS WITH ME, TOO!
GET 'EM ALL! ALL THE SUSPECTS! TAKE THEM TO JESSE BAKER'S OFFICE!

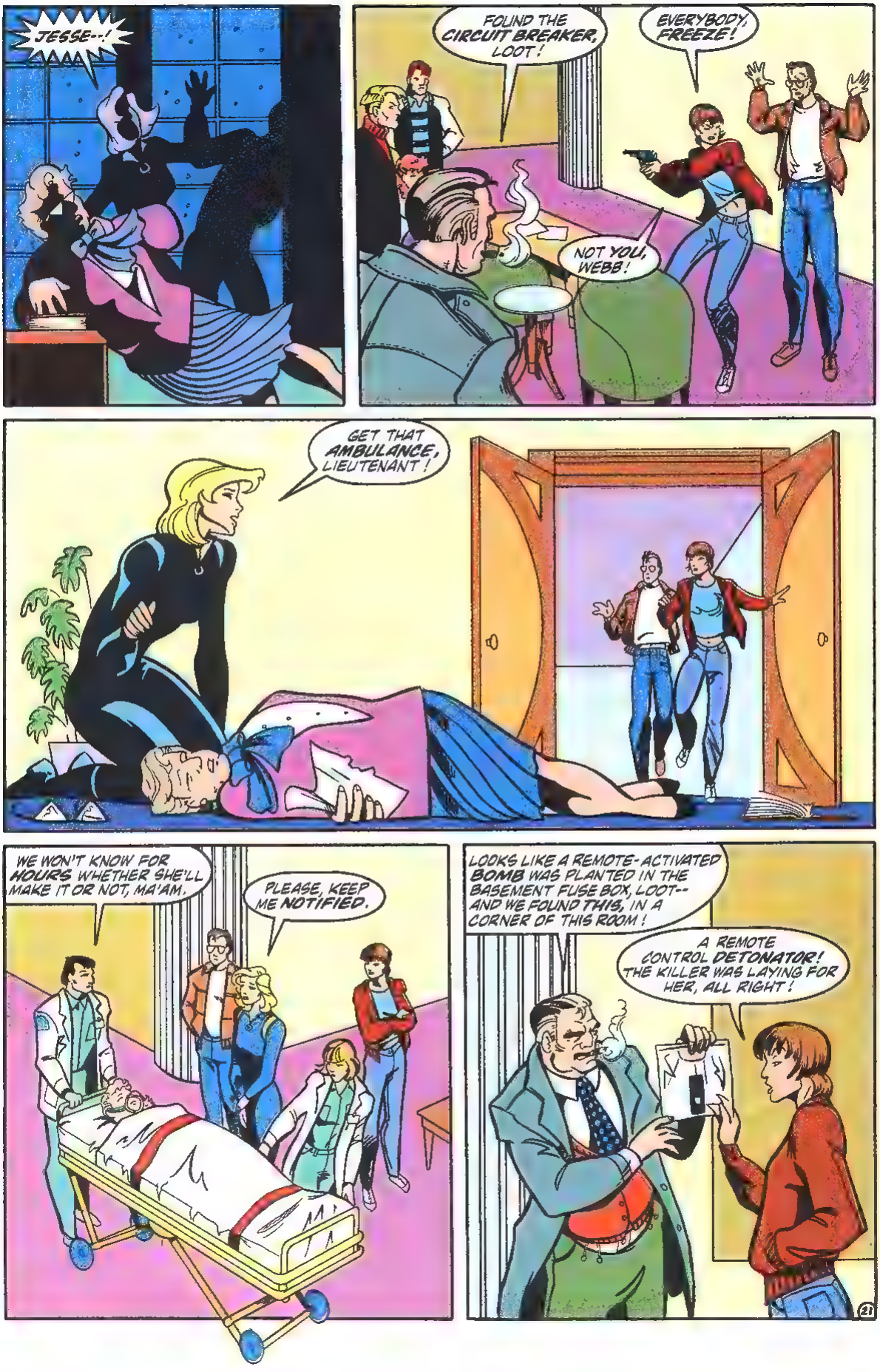
DO YOU THINK THAT'S WISE, LIEUTENANT?
AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE THEM ALL IN ONE PLACE, MISS MAYS! WITH ALL HIS "FRIENDS" THERE, MAYBE THE KILLER WILL DO SOMETHING DUMB!
WE HAVE TO DO SOME TALKING TOO, JEN.
I KNOW, GABE, BUT NOT NOW. PERHAPS WHEN THIS IS OVER.
YOU ALL KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, AND NO ONE'S LEAVING UNTIL I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THESE MURDERS!
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT, LIEUTENANT? THEN PROVE IT!
I CAN'T, MS. BURKE-- NOT YET. BUT NONE OF YOU HAS AN ALIBI--
--NOT EVEN YOU AND MR. BLAIR--AND YOU SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER.
WHAT LITTLE WE'VE SEEN OF IT!
ERIC AND I ARE BOTH VERY SOUND SLEEPERS, LIEUTENANT.

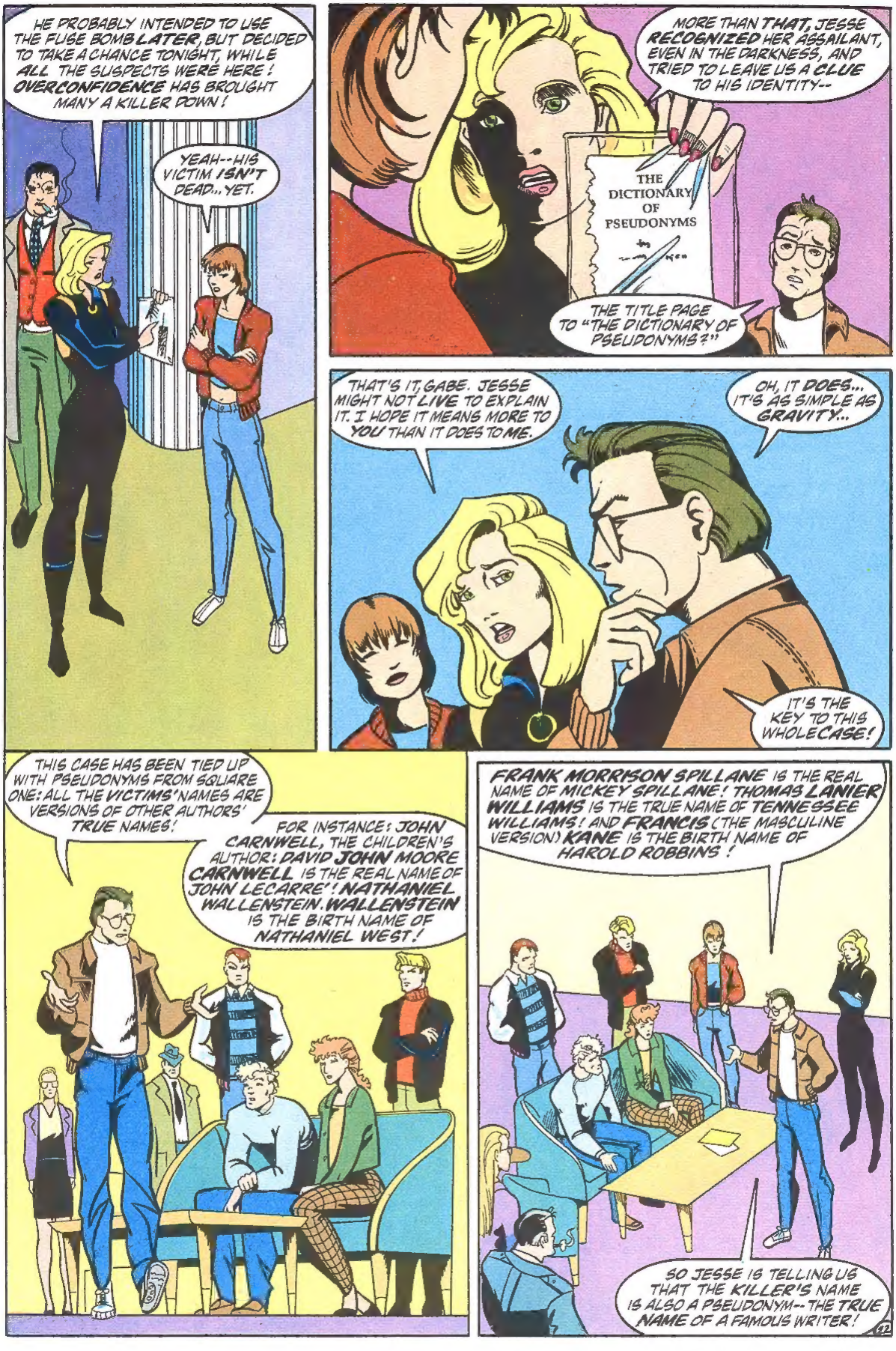

I'M A VERY LIGHT SLEEPER, LIEUTENANT--SERGEANT SIMONS' PACING OUTSIDE MY APARTMENT KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT!
BUT YOU HAVE A FIRE ESCAPE, TOO, MR. JENKINS. IT WAS MY MISTAKE, TRYING TO KEEP WATCH ON YOU WITH SO FEW MEN, BUT NOW...


YOU KNOW, JEN, THERE'S ANOTHER POSSIBLE VICTIM WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED!
JESSE! WITH AN ESTABLISHED MARKET FOR "DESIREE BRANDYWINE," THE KILLER WON'T NEED AN AGENT, BUT HE'LL WANT JESSE'S TEN PER--X
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
SIMONS! WHERE IN HELL ARE THE LIGHTS?
I DUNNO, LIEUTENANT!

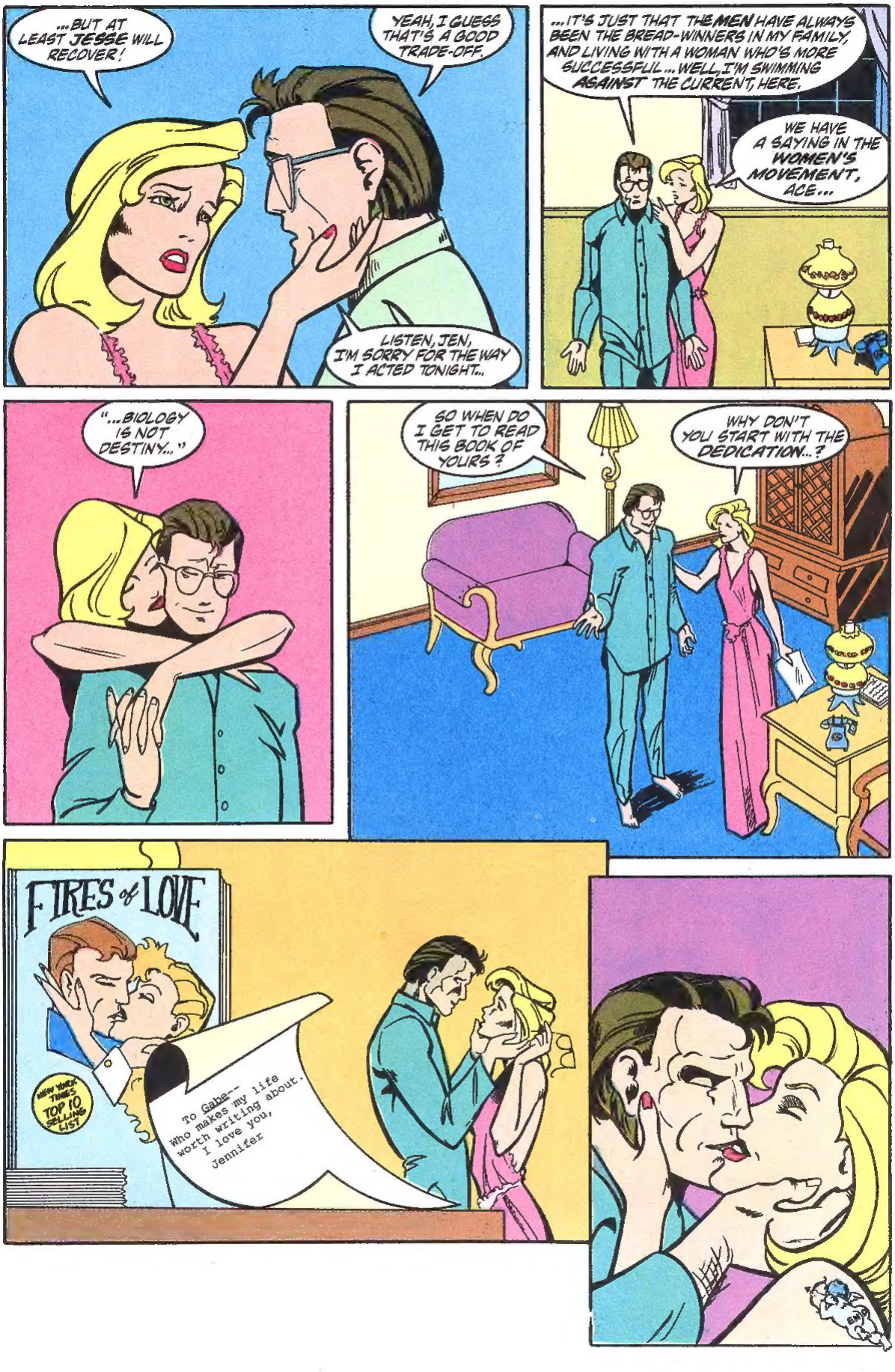
JESSE! JESSE, YOU'RE IN DANGER--!

HUUUUUUK


JESSE--!
FOUND THE CIRCUIT BREAKER, LOOT!
EVERYBODY, FREEZE!
NOT YOU, WEBB!
GET THAT AMBULANCE, LIEUTENANT!
WE WON'T KNOW FOR HOURS WHETHER SHE'LL MAKE IT OR NOT, MA'AM.
PLEASE, KEEP ME NOTIFIED.
LOOKS LIKE A REMOTE-ACTIVATED BOMB WAS PLANTED IN THE BASEMENT FUSE BOX, LOOT-- AND WE FOUND THIS, IN A CORNER OF THIS ROOM!
A REMOTE CONTROL DETONATOR! THE KILLER WAS LAYING FOR HER, ALL RIGHT!
21


HE PROBABLY INTENDED TO USE THE FUSE BOMB LATER, BUT DECIDED TO TAKE A CHANCE TONIGHT, WHILE ALL THE SUSPECTS WERE HERE! OVERCONFIDENCE HAS BROUGHT MANY A KILLER DOWN!
YEAH--HIS VICTIM ISN'T DEAD...YET.
MORE THAN THAT, JESSE RECOGNIZED HER ASSAILANT, EVEN IN THE DARKNESS, AND TRIED TO LEAVE US A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY--
THE DICTIONARY OF PSEUDONYMS
THE TITLE PAGE TO "THE DICTIONARY OF PSEUDONYMS?"
THAT'S IT, GABE. JESSE MIGHT NOT LIVE TO EXPLAIN IT. I HOPE IT MEANS MORE TO YOU THAN IT DOES TO ME.
OH, IT DOES... IT'S AS SIMPLE AS GRAVITY...
IT'S THE KEY TO THIS WHOLE CASE!
THIS CASE HAS BEEN TIED UP WITH PSEUDONYMS FROM SQUARE ONE: ALL THE VICTIMS' NAMES ARE VERSIONS OF OTHER AUTHORS' TRUE NAMES!
FOR INSTANCE: JOHN CARNWELL, THE CHILDREN'S AUTHOR: DAVID JOHN MOORE CARNWELL IS THE REAL NAME OF JOHN LECARRE'! NATHANIEL WALLENSTEIN. WALLENSTEIN IS THE BIRTH NAME OF NATHANIEL WEST!
FRANK MORRISON SPILLANE IS THE REAL NAME OF MICKEY SPILLANE! THOMAS LANIER WILLIAMS IS THE TRUE NAME OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS! AND FRANCIS (THE MASCULINE VERSION) KANE IS THE BIRTH NAME OF HAROLD ROBBINS!
SO JESSE IS TELLING US THAT THE KILLER'S NAME IS ALSO A PSEUDONYM--THE TRUE NAME OF A FAMOUS WRITER!
42

THEN ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOOK UP THE SUSPECTS' NAMES IN HERE!
IF YOU LIKE, LIEUTENANT. BUT I CAN TELL YOU ALREADY: THERE ARE A LOT OF NEAR MISSES--A FEW "BURKES," A "JENKINS," AND EVEN AN "O'ROURKE"...
BUT... THERE'S ONLY ONE MATCH!
"ERIC BLAIR"--THE TRUE NAME OF GEORGE ORWELL!"
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT STICK!
THE HELL WE WON'T, BLAIR, NOW THAT WE CAN DIRECT OUR INVESTIGATION TO A SPECIFIC SUBJECT! AND IF MS. BAKER SURVIVES...
ERIC? ERIC, LOOK AT ME!
WOULD YOU HAVE KILLED ME, TOO? AFTER WHAT WE HAD?
I HOPE NOT, CHARITY...
...BUT I HADN'T DECIDED.
"WELL, THAT COMPLETES A PERFECT DAY!"
"WHAT IS IT, GABE?"
HERMAN LOST THE BACKER FOR THIS BOOK LINE! MY BOOK'S JUST BECOME ANOTHER TRUE-CRIME STORY!
HONEY, I'M SO SORRY...
23


...BUT AT LEAST JESSE WILL RECOVER!
YEAH, I GUESS THAT'S A GOOD TRADE-OFF.
LISTEN, JEN, I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I ACTED TONIGHT...
...IT'S JUST THAT THE MEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE BREAD-WINNERS IN MY FAMILY, AND LIVING WITH A WOMAN WHO'S MORE SUCCESSFUL... WELL, I'M SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT, HERE.
WE HAVE A SAYING IN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, ACE...
"...BIOLOGY IS NOT DESTINY..."
SO WHEN DO I GET TO READ THIS BOOK OF YOURS?
WHY DON'T YOU START WITH THE DEDICATION...?
FIRES of LOVE
NEW YORK TIMES TOP 10 SELLING LIST
To Gabe--
Who makes my life
worth writing about.
I love you,
Jennifer

# INNOVATION™

# A Bargain At Half The Price, But Worth At Least What You're Paying!

***Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #5*** -- Full-color cardstock format. The highly-acclaimed graphic adaptation of the best-seller continues! "The Vampire Armand " is faithfully adapted by **Faye Perozich** and **Daerick Gross**. Stunning cover painting by **John Bolton**!

***Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #1*** -- The much-requested third printing -- available now! Cover by **John Bolton**!

***Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #2*** -- Second printing. Cover by **John Bolton**!

***HERO ALLIANCE #10*** -- Full-color series. Kris's terrible fate is hardly an act of "Brotherly Love," by **Robert M. Ingersoll, David Campiti, Mark Jones** & **Michal Dutkiewicz**. Powerful cover by **Bart Sears** & **Ron Lim**!

***HERO ALLIANCE ANNUAL #1*** -- Full-color special. This is it...the beginning of the cross-over! Featuring interior art and wrap-around cover by fan favorite **Paul Smith**!

***HERO ALLIANCE & JUSTICE MACHINE: IDENTITY CRISIS #1*** -- Full-color special. Continuing from ***HERO ALLIANCE ANNUAL #1***, the cross-over spectacular of the summer! "The Best of Both Worlds" is by **Mark Stadler, David Campiti, Michal Dutkiewicz,** and **Mike Gustovich**. Lovely wrap-around cover by **Michal Dutkiewicz**!

***INNOVATION PREVIEWS #4*** -- Our FREE magazine of summertime information and interviews! Exciting news on Innovation's upcoming September 1990 releases -- including our new B&W line. Ask for your copy from your Retailer now!

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***Stephen Sullivan & Tim Truman's NEWSTRALIA #5*** -- B&W mini-series. The conclusion! "Panacea" is by **Stephen Sullivan, John Hebert** & **Mike Witherby**! Wrap-around cover by **John Hebert** & the also-legendary **Nestor Redondo**!

***"THE VAMPIRE AWAITS" COLOR POSTER #1*** -- A 22" x 28" high-quality full-color poster by Daerick Gross, the magnificent painter of ***THE VAMPIRE LESTAT***!

*Next Issue:*

## "Terrible Swift Sword"

*It Started With Camping In The Woods...*